



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161
<http://ct.gov/dmv>



***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Melody A.
Currey
Transportation Committee Public Hearing
March 4, 2013***

As the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), I am here to listen to the proponents of the legislation and to the various concerns surrounding the issue of undocumented immigrants and drivers licenses in the state of Connecticut.

DMV is committed to working on this issue with the General Assembly and to continue to listen and work with advocacy groups such as Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut (CONNECT). Connecticut has established rigorous procedures for verifying a person's identity when that person seeks to obtain a license or non-driver identity card. As a result, Connecticut drivers' licenses and non-driver identification cards are credentials that are able to be used for purposes other than proof that a person is qualified to operate a motor vehicle. They serve as identity documents that are also used by banks and other institutions as evidence that the holders are who they say they are.

DMV agrees that public safety and safety for the motoring public is critical. The state of Illinois recently passed a law that would allow certain undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license for driving purposes only. The Connecticut DMV has examined the model adopted in the new Illinois law, as well as other measures being raised around the country, and believes that if similar legislation were passed here in Connecticut that such a program may be workable. The Illinois model would be a step in the right direction to help improve the safety of all motor vehicle operators in Connecticut by having such individuals tested, insured and licensed.

In December, I issued a directive to offer licenses and identification cards to individuals given legal presence by the federal government under President Obama's Deferred Action for Early Childhood Arrivals program (this population is often referred to as "dreamers"). Should the United States Congress address the issue of immigration reform, the Connecticut DMV would be able to react and respond, in order to issue licenses to any newly defined residency requirements. In that case, changes to Connecticut law would not be necessary.

Thank you and I look forward to continuing to work with the legislature and advocacy groups on this matter.